

Society of Medical Friends of Wine



A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, FEIN 94-6088159
www.medicalfriendsofwine.org

1038 Redwood Highway, Suite #9, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Telephone: (415) 309-4079, Email: societyofmedicalfriendsofwine@gmail.com

President David Schwartz, MD	Vice President Maynard Johnston, MD	Finance Manager Jack McElroy DVM	Secretary Susan Schwartz, MPA	Executive Secretary Claire Bloomberg Keiser
Cellar Master & Editor Robert S. Blumberg, MD	General Counsel Thomas Gump, JD	Webmaster Elizabeth Kass, MD	Founding Executive Leon Adams, 1905-1995	Event Manager James Gallagher, PhD

April 20, 2022

Greetings Members and Friends,

Springtime brings the promise of new life, and we are sensing the possibilities for the resumption of more in-person events as we navigate through the progressive chapters of the Covid-19 pandemic-endemic era here in the Bay Area.

As president, I hope to promote our 2022 wine education theme of exploring wines from lesser known regions in our virtual tasting, in-person events and anticipated winery tour experience. I'd like to begin with a brief overview of 2022 events:

Lively conversation and new enthusiasm abounded at our 83rd Annual Dinner at Poggio Trattoria on March 5th, coordinated by immediate past-president and now ex-officio Event Manager, Dr. Jim Gallagher. We sent out Wine Notes ahead of the dinner, and will aim to do so with our wine education events going forward. We had 19 members and six guests in attendance, of which two represented the wine industry. All enjoyed a thoughtful comparison of Italian wines matched to Poggio's excellent cuisine that was served in a private room. Thanks also to Claire Keiser, Executive Secretary for a smooth event delivery and to Dr. Jim Gallagher and Cellar Master Dr. Bob Blumberg for researching and selecting the wines with me.

Next up will be the Virtual Tasting on Saturday, May 14th at 4:00pm. Please invite your family and friends for a Zoom-format tasting comparison of three California Rhone-Style wines and one French red Rhone varietal. Information on purchasing the wines and registration details has already been issued to members and previous guests. The virtual tasting is an ideal opportunity to introduce prospective members to the Society. Rhone-style wines pair well with a variety of foods. We will wrap up the tasting by 5:30pm so that you may enjoy your evening. The tasting will be co-moderated by Jim Gallagher, Bob Blumberg and myself.

The Executive Committee is actively planning for a tour of Petaluma Gap AVA wineries this summer. Petaluma Gap spans an area stretching from the Pacific coast at Bodega Bay and running

southeast to the San Pablo Bay along the border of Northern Marin and Southern Sonoma counties. Think of the cooling winds and fog that contribute to the terroir for some unique Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays. Once the wine tour date and details are worked out we will contact you with essential information.

We now know that the Society's much anticipated French Club Dinner will be on Friday, September 23rd, 2022. Event Manager Jim Gallagher will provide further information this summer. We appreciate Marc LeClerc for serving as our liaison this year to the French Club.

We will return to the Mill Valley Community Center on Sunday afternoon, November 13th for our cherished Cheese and Wine tasting moderated by cheese expert and food author Janet Fletcher and Cellar Master Bob Blumberg. Information will be forthcoming this fall.

Our membership is small but steady at 32 members, with room to grow this year. We welcome two new members: Gianna Fugazi, wine maker at Wander Must Wine, and Sonoma County resident Becky Chaboya. I encourage members to think of people that you may know, including those in the wine industry, who would enjoy our events and might possibly become our next new members. I encourage you to contact Claire or myself with your ideas on growing our membership at societyofmedicalfriendsofwine@gmail.com.

The Society's Executive Committee is working diligently to plan and organize activities while addressing our responsibilities for operating as a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. With appreciation to Dr. Jack McElroy, Finance Manager/Treasurer, we are meeting our non-profit status requirements. However, membership dues do not cover all of our operating expenses, and that is where cash donations from members and other supporters helps to offset the gap. I join Jim Gallagher in thanking those of you who made cash contributions in 2021. I also thank our first twelve members who have given gifts of cash and fine wines to the Society in 2022. Several donations have been made to the newly established Susan Guerguy Fund, in memory of our former executive secretary who passed away last year. Please refer to the Donor Thank You section in this newsletter. Donations of wines in excellent condition to the SMFW cellar help to defray future event expenses. Our goal this year is to welcome donations from 100% of our members, and to expand outreach to wine industry donors who are motivated by the mission and value of the Society of Medical Friends of Wine. Please contact executive secretary Claire Bloomberg Keiser or myself with your suggestions of potential donors.

I am honored to be your President during this era of an expanded Executive Committee that provides an "all hands on deck" approach to overseeing member events, finances, a creative website, an outstanding newsletter, focused wine education, wine and health coverage in the SMFW newsletter and a myriad of administrative and documentation functions. In a two-year period of time, we have increased the Executive Committee size from four officers to an additional four ex-officio positions for a total of eight regular members, aided by the advice of five additional SMFW Board members. I consider myself lucky to be surrounded by a fellow group of volunteers with medical, finance, writing, legal and administrative talent, and also to have the opportunity to get better acquainted with my fellow Society members this year.

My door is open, and I welcome your communication with me at any time related to our shared adventure. Thank you, 2022 members of the Society of Medical Friends of Wine!

Cheers and Salute,

David Schwartz, MD